United Nations E/2016/53

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 March 2016

Original: English

**2016 session**
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 12 (f)
**Coordination, programme and other questions: prevention and control of non-communicable diseases**

# United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

## Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2015/8.

16-04571 (E) 070416

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# Report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

## I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases was established by the Secretary-General in 2013 by expanding the mandate of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12. The Task Force was placed under the leadership of the World Health Organization (WHO), and coordinates activities of the relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to support the realization of commitments made by Heads of State and Government in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, adopted in 2011 by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/2, and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, adopted in 2014 by the Assembly in its resolution 68/300, in particular through the implementation of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases 2013-2020, endorsed by the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly in its resolution WHA66.10. Following the issuance of the note by the Secretary-General to the Council transmitting the report of the Director General of WHO on the Task Force (E/2014/55), the Council, in its resolution 2014/10, endorsed the terms of reference for the Task Force,[1] including a division of tasks and responsibilities of its members, in June 2014. Pursuant to Council resolution 2015/8, the present report discusses the progress achieved by the Task Force since the submission of the previous report (E/2015/53).

## II. Historic crossroads

2. The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, marked a historic crossroads, as the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/1 entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", decided to include as part of the new global Sustainable Development Goals commitments to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, issues that the Millennium Development Goals did not address.

3. As part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, 13-16 July 2015), endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/313, Heads of State and Government noted the enormous burden that non-communicable diseases place on

[1] See World Health Organization, documents A67/14 Add.3 Rev.1, annex, and WHA67/2014/REC/3, summary record of the 7th meeting of Committee A.

developed and developing countries, and recognized, in particular, that, as part of a comprehensive strategy of prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, price and tax measures on tobacco could be an effective and important means to reduce tobacco consumption and health-care costs and represent a revenue stream for financing for development in many countries. Accordingly, Heads of State and Government committed to supporting research and development of vaccines and medicines, as well as preventive measures and treatments for non-communicable diseases, in particular those that disproportionately impact developing countries. Parties to the Framework Convention committed to strengthening the implementation of the Framework Convention in all countries and to supporting mechanisms to raise awareness and mobilize resources.

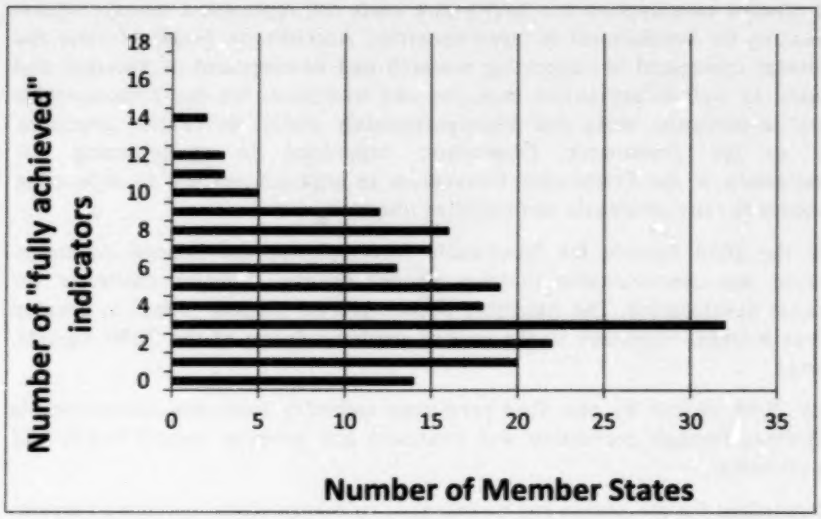
4. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the General Assembly recognized non-communicable diseases as constituting a major challenge for sustainable development. The Assembly encouraged all Member States to develop ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including:

- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- Achieve universal health coverage
- Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries
- Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, and provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines.

5. On the occasion of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, WHO launched the non-communicable diseases progress monitor 2015 on 25 September 2015 in New York. The monitor tracks the extent to which 194 Member States are implementing the four time-bound commitments for 2015 and 2016 included in the 2014 outcome document, in accordance with a technical note published by the Director General of WHO on 1 May 2015 pursuant to decision EB136(13) of the Executive Board of WHO.

6. Two Member States fully achieved 14 out of a total of 18 measures. However, a significant number of Member States had a very poor achievement of the progress indicators: 14 Member States did not achieve a single progress indicator, 124 Member States only fully achieved between one and six of the indicators, and 54 Member States fully achieved between 7 and 12 indicators (see figure).

**Number of Member States that have "fully achieved" zero to 18 progress monitor indicators relating to the four time-bound commitments for 2015 and 2016 included in General Assembly resolution 68/300**




## III. Work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

7. Pursuant to Council resolution 2015/8, and in support of General Assembly resolutions 69/313 and 70/1, the work of the Task Force between July 2015 and June 2016 has been directed towards the implementation of the six objectives set out in its terms of reference, and in line with the Political Declaration and the 2014 outcome document.

8. Significant progress was made in delivering the Task Force's workplan for 2014-2015. Progress reports are available on the WHO website (see http://www.who.int/ncds/un-task-force/en/). A workplan covering the period 2016-2017 has been developed by the Task Force in line with the objectives set out in its terms of reference in order to support Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal targets relating to non-communicable diseases.

**Objective 1: to enhance and coordinate systematic support to Member States, upon request, at the national level, in efforts to support responses to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts**

*Strengthen the capacities of United Nations country teams, including through joint programming*

9. The work of the Task Force to promote joint programming among United Nations country teams to support national responses to non-communicable diseases was accelerated by field missions to Barbados (13-17 April 2015), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (13-17 July 2015), Mongolia (7-11 September 2015), Sri Lanka (5-9 October 2015), Mozambique (2-7 November 2015), Paraguay

(22-26 February 2016), Kyrgyzstan (14-18 March 2016) and Oman (10-14 April 2016). The objectives of the missions were to support country teams in their efforts to support countries in their efforts to build and share solutions for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and to establish a United Nations thematic group on non-communicable diseases, or other appropriate arrangements, to serve as platforms for coordinated support to national responses to non-communicable diseases that contribute to attaining target 3.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Efforts included integrating work on non-communicable diseases into the common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework, identifying opportunities for country team cooperation, including joint programming, and monitoring progress on the implementation of the activities of the country teams relevant to addressing non-communicable diseases. Participants included the Asian Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Volunteers programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP) and WHO.

10. The terms of reference for the joint programming missions were prepared by the WHO country offices and United Nations country teams, in close collaboration with ministries of health and planning. Support was provided by the WHO secretariat of the Task Force. The missions included meetings with the country teams, ministries of health, finance, trade, agriculture, consumer affairs, sport and planning, members of parliaments, civil society and, in some cases, selected private sector entities. The missions included engagement with the media in order to raise the profile of national efforts to address non-communicable diseases.

11. United Nations country teams, with support from regional counterparts and the Task Force, have provided technical assistance to the countries in which joint programming missions were conducted as reported in the previous report, namely, Belarus, Kenya, India and Tonga.

12. The United Nations country teams that have hosted joint programming missions have started to increase their support to Governments in preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases. The missions have also provided the country teams with a better understanding of the current practical knowledge, available evidence and the outcomes of a review of international experience in how to support Governments in using "whole of government" and "whole of society" approaches to addressing non-communicable diseases.[2]

13. In addition, many WHO country offices have worked closely with resident United Nations country teams to scale up national responses to non-communicable

[2] Such outcomes include very cost-effective and affordable ("best buy") interventions; national multisectoral mechanisms (such as a high-level commission, agency or task force for engagement, policy coherence and accountability); a national multisectoral action plan; and a set of national targets based on the nine voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases contained in the WHO global action plan.

diseases in order to: (a) increase access to interventions that reduce risk factors for non-communicable diseases and enable health systems to respond; (b) develop national multisectoral policies and plans on non-communicable diseases; and (c) increase the priority given to addressing non-communicable diseases in national health-planning processes and development agendas.

14. Task Force members have contributed to the work of the two WHO global coordination mechanism working groups[3] to recommend ways and means of encouraging Member States to realize the commitments included in paragraphs 44 and 45 (d) of the Political Declaration by providing recommendations to countries (see http://who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/working-groups/en/).

*Joint programme to catalyse multisectoral action at the country level*

15. The Task Force joint programming country missions have stimulated demand for the development of national non-communicable diseases investment cases. More than 12 countries have requested support. The methodology of the non-communicable diseases investment case was finalized in 2015, and the Task Force and the WHO global coordination mechanism provided technical assistance to develop the investment case for action on non-communicable diseases in Barbados. A new UNDP-WHO global joint programme on catalysing multisectoral action on non-communicable diseases has been developed and will include support for these investment cases. Further details on the joint programme are available on the WHO website.[4]

*Joint programmes relating to cancer*

16. A five-year joint programme on cervical cancer prevention and control has been developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women and WHO to provide technical assistance to countries in order to develop functioning and sustainable high-quality national comprehensive cervical cancer control programmes. The joint programme will support eight countries in its first two years and will be rolled out in other countries over the subsequent three years.

17. IAEA, IARC and WHO have been working to develop a joint project on cancer control in seven Member States. The current status of cancer control and proposed project activities by the three organizations in these countries are being mapped.

*Enable health systems to respond to cancer*

18. IAEA continues to support Member States in mobilizing resources in their response to cancer by advising them on the development of plans and project proposals. A standard template has been developed, which Albania, Benin, Lesotho, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania have used to seek funding for

[3] See World Health Organization, document A67/14 Add.1, annex, appendix 1, paragraphs 9-11.

[4] United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organization, "Catalysing multisectoral action for NCDs: a proposal for a WHO-UNDP global joint programme to support country action to develop ambitious national multi-stakeholder responses to the NCD-related targets in the SDGs". Available from http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2015/ncd-multisector.pdf?ua=1.

comprehensive cancer control programmes. In November 2015, IAEA organized a workshop on resource mobilization at the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer in Marrakesh, Morocco. Fifteen countries participated. In 2015, IAEA led inter-agency comprehensive cancer control capacity and needs assessment missions with follow-up to eight countries, alongside WHO and IARC. IAEA and WHO continue to assist Member States through model demonstration sites for the IAEA Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy, for example, for breast and cervical cancer early detection in Viet Nam and strengthening diagnostic services in Nicaragua.

19. The joint IAEA-WHO network of Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratories continues to support standardization in dosimetry in 62 countries. The joint IAEA-WHO dose quality audits continue to check the dosimetry of around 700 radiotherapy beams every year. These services contribute to the improvement of the quality of radiotherapy treatments in many countries.

20. IAEA, WHO, IARC and the African Cancer Registry Network joined forces to hold a regional workshop to strengthen national capacity in cancer registries in Brazzaville in 2016, in which 35 experts from francophone countries in Africa participated.

*Radiopharmacology*

21. IAEA has undertaken capacity-building and technology transfer through scientific networking and the promotion of best practices, especially to low-income countries, in order to enhance national laboratory capabilities in the research and development of radiopharmacy.

*Thematic working group to support the WHO global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol*

22. The thematic working group was established in 2015 to foster inter-agency collaboration and cooperation in support of the WHO global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. Current members are FAO, IARC, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN-Women, the World Bank, WHO and the World Trade Organization. The thematic working group has mapped alcohol-related activities across the Task Force members of the United Nations system. Three priority countries have been identified for alcohol-focused activities by the Task Force and the thematic working group: Belarus, Kenya and the Republic of Moldova.

23. Meetings on integrating responses to gender-based violence, HIV and the harmful use of alcohol have been organized by WHO and UNDP in Namibia (2015) and Botswana (2016) for countries in Africa, with the participation of Governments, civil society and organizations of the United Nations system.

*New thematic working groups*

24. Two new thematic working groups were established at the sixth Task Force Meeting, in February 2016, one on surveillance and one on road safety. The latter will enhance country-level action in line with the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration.

*Physical education and non-communicable diseases*

25. Four pilot countries (Fiji, Mexico, South Africa and Zambia) have been selected to launch their national physical education policy revision in line with the quality physical education guidelines for policymakers developed by UNESCO, in partnership with the European Commission, the UNESCO International Bureau of Education, the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education, the International Olympic Committee , UNDP, UNICEF and WHO.

26. In November 2015, the International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its thirty-eighth session. The International Charter integrates the significant evolutions in the field of sport since the original International Charter of Physical Education and Sport of 1978, and introduces universal principles, such as ethics, gender equality, non-discrimination and social inclusion, in and through sport. It also highlights the benefits of physical activity.

*End childhood obesity*

27. Organizations of the United Nations system have contributed to the work of the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity. A final report was presented to the Director General of WHO in 2016, culminating a two-year process to address the alarming levels of childhood obesity and overweight globally. In the report, a range of recommendations for Governments was proposed, aimed at reversing the rising trend of children under 5 years of age becoming overweight and obese.

*Address multisectoral policies to improve nutrition*

28. UNICEF is in the process of developing policy and programming guidance on how to incorporate childhood overweight and obesity reduction into its programmes. This will be encompassed in a white paper to serve as a basis to inform UNICEF staff on effective approaches to tackle the rising rates of obesity, with special attention given to the possibility of preventing obesity in early childhood. A workshop held in February 2016 in New York included: (a) an analysis of the current situation of child overweight; (b) effective strategies for the prevention and management of child overweight; and (c) current programming activities.

29. The 2015 Global Nutrition Report was published in September 2015, with substantial attention given to healthy diets and food environments. The report concludes that nearly half of all countries face multiple serious burdens of malnutrition, such as poor child growth, micronutrient deficiency and adult overweight and obesity.

30. IAEA continued to support its members in using nuclear techniques to assess obesity in regional projects in Africa and Asia, and in using the doubly labelled water technique to measure total energy expenditure in children in Kuwait. In addition, it supported the use of nuclear techniques to validate other methods of body composition assessment (for example, bioelectrical impedance analysis) to improve understanding of obesity, and questionnaires and movement sensors to improve understanding on physical activity by children.

31. WFP addresses non-communicable diseases through the linkages between nutrition and chronic diseases. An evaluation of the Programme's nutrition policy

was presented to the Executive Board of WFP in 2015. The Programme is strengthening its efforts to support Member States in their efforts to reduce levels of overweight and obesity, particularly among people living with HIV and tuberculosis.

*Promote the use of mobile technologies in addressing non-communicable diseases*

32. WHO and the International Telecommunication Union, in collaboration with a range of partners, continued to provide technical assistance to countries as part of a set of national programmes under the Be He@lthy, Be Mobile joint programme. Thirty-seven countries have expressed interest in the initiative and eight countries are currently in partnership (Costa Rica, India, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia). Guidance on mobile health programmes for tobacco cessation, diabetes, cervical cancer, wellness and hypertension has been developed to support countries in developing mobile health services.

33. IAEA, in collaboration with the Tata Memorial Centre under the Government of India's Department of Atomic Energy, has developed a cancer staging smartphone application for medical professionals that supports decision-making on cancer treatment.

*Address the linkages between non-communicable diseases and the workplace*

34. The links between non-communicable diseases and occupational and work-related diseases have been taken forward by WHO and ILO through meetings in Colombia (August 2015) and the Russian Federation (September 2015) and through the global network of WHO collaborating centres in occupational health in the Republic of Korea (May 2015), in which a workplan for tackling occupational non-communicable diseases was developed.

35. The report of the working group of the WHO global coordination mechanism to recommend ways and means of encouraging Member States to realize the commitment included in paragraph 44 of the 2011 Political Declaration includes specific recommendations on how Governments can call upon the private sector to promote and create an enabling environment for healthy behaviours among workers.[5]

36. A range of capacity-building initiatives have been undertaken, including: (a) training on occupational diseases and the prevention and control of workplace hazards in China, Colombia, Italy, Peru and the Russian Federation; (b) support for the organization of advanced training for physicians on the use of the ILO International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconioses in Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and other countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; (c) prevention of silicosis as part of the national plan of Chile on the elimination of silicosis; (d) development of guidance notes on diagnostic and exposure criteria for occupational diseases; (e) translation of the HealthWISE package into Chinese, French, Portuguese and Spanish, with a train-the-trainers workshop held in Zhengzhou, China, in November 2015; and (f) a number of initiatives to promote the ILO SOLVE initiative (integrating health promotion into

[5] See http://www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/working-groups/wg-3-1-private-sector/en/.

the workplace). As of December 2015, 121 Member States and 1 Territory have been included in the global database on occupational safety and health legislation.

*Promote healthy lifestyles for children and families*

37. In response to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/2 on supporting the availability, accessibility and diversity of scientific evidence-based treatment and care for children and young people with substance use disorders, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is implementing programmes to build national capacity within national justice systems to meet the health needs of children and to raise awareness on victim services, including the health needs of children and youth as victims of human trafficking.

**Objective 2: to facilitate systematic and timely information exchange among entities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations about existing and planned strategies, programmes and activities to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts, at the global, regional and national levels, including through the establishment of a virtual practice community for members of the Task Force, with updates regularly circulated to subscribers, and the preparation and regular updating of an inventory of United Nations system activities on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases**

*Facilitate information exchange at the global level*

38. The 5th meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 26 and 27 October 2015) was hosted by WHO and co-chaired by the World Bank and WHO. The meeting was attended by 24 members. The Task Force reviewed progress made in implementing the workplan for 2014-2015, agreed on the list of countries for the joint programming missions and plans for joint programmes, and discussed ways to mobilize resources for its work.[6]

39. The 6th meeting of the Task Force (New York, 10-12 February 2016) was hosted by UNDP. The meeting was co-chaired by WHO and UNDP and was attended by representatives of 22 organizations. Members of the Task Force reviewed progress on joint programmes and resource mobilization, reviewed the progress and impact of joint programming missions and plans for future missions, agreed on the 2014-2015 workplan progress report, and signed off on the 2016-2017 workplan, with a focus on: (a) fast-track action as part of integrated support by WHO to countries, through a series of joint programming missions to support United Nations country teams in scaling up technical assistance on non-communicable diseases; (b) development and roll-out of a series of global joint programmes; and (c) communication with policymakers in developing and developed countries about the work of the Task Force.

40. Members of the Task Force continued their work to integrate work on non-communicable diseases into the policies, strategies and plans of their governing bodies. Approximately half of the 30 Task Force members that responded to a recent survey have included work on non-communicable diseases in their policies and plans and have programmes and projects that include a response to non-communicable diseases.

[6] A summary of the meeting is available from http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-task-force/en/.

*Facilitate information exchange at the regional level*

41. The Inter-American Task Force on Non-communicable Diseases was established at the Seventh Summit of the Americas, held in Panama in April 2015. Its aim is to promote and coordinate multisectoral activities with the agencies and associated international institutions within the inter-American system towards the achievement of the regional plan of action for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases for the period 2013-2019. It was launched in July 2015 by the Pan American Health Organization, serving as its lead, alongside the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the World Bank. A mapping of each organization's current investments in and technical cooperation on addressing non-communicable diseases and their risk factors has been conducted, and a joint workplan is being developed, with a focus on a multisectoral response to tobacco control, obesity prevention in children and adolescents, and cardiovascular disease.

42. The WHO European region's inter-agency thematic group on non-communicable diseases and social, economic and environmental determinants has agreed its terms of reference and aligned the objectives of its workplan with those of the Task Force. UNDP has shared an analysis of its projects in the region from a health equity perspective to identify how they address social, economic and environmental determinants of health.

43. The Pacific regional thematic group on non-communicable diseases, which includes all of the United Nations entities present in the Pacific islands, meets quarterly to coordinate its joint support to national efforts to address non-communicable diseases.

**Objective 3: to facilitate information on available resources to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts, and to undertake resource mobilization for the implementation of agreed activities, including for joint programmes in accordance with guidelines of the United Nations Development Group**

*Protect activities of the Task Force from undue influence by vested interests and provide updates on work on conflicts of interest, including on preventing tobacco industry interference by developing a common policy framework for Task Force members*

44. The United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, through its reports to the Council, alerted Member States to the importance of protecting activities of the Task Force from undue influence by vested interests. In particular, the tobacco industry, in its efforts to portray itself as socially responsible, seeks to obscure the impact of tobacco consumption on health and development; this shows the importance of organizations of the United Nations system working as one and ensuring the consistent presence of a firewall between Task Force members' activities and those of the tobacco industry.

45. The terms of reference of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases stipulate that public health policies for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases must be protected from undue influence by any form of vested interest. There have been

examples, however, of the tobacco industry associating itself with some members of the Task Force, sometimes without the knowledge of the members themselves. At the 5th meeting of the Task Force, the secretariat of the Framework Convention and WHO presented a paper to highlight good practices from agencies including IAEA, UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, the secretariat of the Framework Convention and the World Bank to prevent tobacco industry interference.[7] During both the 5th and 6th meetings of the Task Force, information was shared with members on specific examples of the industry continuing to associate itself with individual organizations of the United Nations system.

46. The Task Force is currently developing a model policy for organizations of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference, which will contain measures based on article 5.3 of the Framework Convention and the relevant guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, with the expectation that it will be adopted by Task Force members by the end of 2016.

47. The Task Force is also aware that the alcohol industry has lobbied at least one Member State ahead of Task Force meetings.

**Objective 4: to strengthen advocacy in order to raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases on the international development agenda, including the post-2015 development agenda, and sustain the interest of Heads of State and Government in realizing their commitments through statements, reports and participation in panels by high-level United Nations officials**

*Non-communicable diseases in the Sustainable Development Goals*

48. The Task Force advocated the firm inclusion of non-communicable diseases in the Sustainable Development Goals, including through participation in the thematic meeting on health of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and through contributions to the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda. The Task Force has also contributed to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. With non-communicable diseases now firmly part of the international development agenda, the Task Force is scaling up efforts to ensure that non-communicable diseases are integrated with countries' broader development priorities and reflected in their planning frameworks for the Sustainable Development Goals.

49. UNDP, in an analysis on how tobacco control was discussed in the consultations on the Sustainable Development Goals, found that, of the 71 national consultation reports that were reviewed, the vast majority of which were for parties to the Framework Convention, not a single one mentioned the Framework Convention. This finding is currently being used as part of advocacy of increased attention to tobacco control and non-communicable diseases.

[7] World Health Organization, "UN agencies and tobacco industry interference: examples of good practice from UN agencies". Available from http://apps.who.int/fctc/implementation/database/groups/un-agencies-and-tobacco-industry-interference-examples-good-practices-un-agencies-document.

**Objective 5: to incorporate the work of the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, including by utilizing the matrix of work of the members of the Task Force on the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and to ensure that tobacco control continues to be duly addressed and prioritized in the new Task Force mandate**

50. Members of the Task Force continue to acknowledge the special focus on tobacco control within the mandate of the Task Force and remain committed to ensuring that tobacco control continues to be duly addressed and prioritized.

*Statutory meetings*

51. Pursuant to decisions made at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, the mandates of the following groups were extended: (a) the expert group on article 19 of the Framework Convention, on liability; (b) the working group on articles 9 and 10 of the Framework Convention; and (c) the working group on sustainable measures to strengthen implementation of the Framework Convention. In addition, two new expert groups were established: (a) an expert group on impact assessment of the Framework Convention; and (b) an expert group on reporting arrangements under the Framework Convention.

52. Preparations are on track for the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Noida, India, from 7 to 12 November 2016, and the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, to be held from 14 to 16 November if the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products enters into force by August 2016.

*Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products*

53. As of February 2016, 15 parties to the Framework Convention have ratified, acceded to or accepted the Protocol. More parties are expected to ratify, accept, approve, formally confirm or accede to the Protocol in the coming months. The Protocol will enter into force once it has 40 parties. Six regional and subregional meetings have been held to assist countries with the process of ratification, acceptance, approval, formal confirmation or accession to the Protocol.[8] The World Bank, the World Customs Organization and WHO have participated in some of the meetings. The secretariat of the Framework Convention has established a panel of experts to assist countries in legal and technical matters relating to the implementation of the Protocol and has developed a paper to respond to frequently asked questions.

*Tobacco taxes and prices*

54. The secretariat of the Framework Convention continued to cover tobacco taxation and pricing in its needs assessment missions and as part of its post-needs-assessment projects for parties. It has also widely disseminated guidelines for the implementation of article 6 of the Framework Convention and has collaborated with WHO, the World Bank and UNDP to develop tools to support Member States in developing price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco.

[8] See http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/80873/1/9789241505246_eng.pdf?ua=1.

55. WHO has provided technical assistance to the ministries of finance of 17 countries in the area of tobacco taxation and has continued to support action through a number of economic and regional groups. Three regional meetings on tobacco taxation were organized in Africa in which more than 20 countries participated.

56. New estimates were published in 2016 that illustrated the revenue potential of taxes on tobacco to support the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The figures suggest that increasing tax by $1 per pack (adjusted for purchasing power parity) in all countries would generate an additional $141 billion.

*Alternative livelihoods to tobacco growing*

57. WHO, UNDP and the secretariat of the Framework Convention participated in an expert group consultation on alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers and workers in New Delhi in June 2015. FAO, ILO and UNDP are working with the secretariat of the Framework Convention to provide support to parties in this area.

*Trade and tobacco*

58. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the secretariat of the Framework Convention have finalized a publication on international investment law and the Framework Convention.

*National coordination*

59. In February 2016, the secretariat of the Framework Convention and UNDP issued a report on national tobacco control coordinating mechanisms in sub-Saharan Africa.

*Needs assessment missions and regional workshop*

60. The secretariat of the Framework Convention, in collaboration with UNDP and WHO, are undertaking needs assessment missions with follow-up to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (August 2015), Belarus (September 2015), Mongolia (2015), Ethiopia (October 2015), Benin (November 2015) and Tonga (November 2015). A review of the impact of these assessments is currently under way. Two regional workshops were organized by the secretariat of the Framework Convention and WHO regional offices in Fiji and Egypt.

*South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the Framework Convention*

61. In September 2015, 22 parties participated in a meeting in Uruguay organized by the secretariat of the Framework Convention and UNDP on South-South and triangular cooperation. Projects on tobacco taxes, national coordination mechanisms, tobacco industry interference, graphic health warnings, litigation, cessation and alternative livelihoods to tobacco growing are being taken forward.

*Knowledge hubs*

62. Three additional knowledge hubs have been established, on (a) water pipe tobacco use (American University of Beirut); (b) tobacco taxation and illicit trade in

tobacco products (University of Cape Town, South Africa); and (c) smokeless tobacco use (Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology, Noida, India).

*Tobacco use and exposure in pregnancy*

63. A set of tools for midwifery and smoking cessation services has been developed to complement the WHO recommendations for the prevention and management of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure in pregnancy of 2013. A number of projects are currently being established at the country level with the support of members of the Task Force.

*Assess the overall impact of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control*

64. An independent expert group has undertaken 12 country visits to assess the impact that the Framework Convention has had on tobacco control policies and legislation, tobacco use and tobacco-related mortality. The results will be reported to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session.

**Objective 6: to strengthen international cooperation in support of national, regional and global plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health promotion, legislation, regulation and health systems strengthening, training of health-care personnel, development of appropriate health-care infrastructure and diagnostics and by promoting the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the production of affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines**

*Establish a baseline for integrating work on non-communicable diseases into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks*

65. The WHO programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 includes an output indicator on the number of countries that have integrated work on non-communicable diseases into their United Nations Development Assistance Framework. UNDP and WHO will jointly monitor the number of countries that have integrated work on non-communicable diseases into their Development Assistance Framework in order to enable WHO to track results and report on progress to the World Health Assembly. A review carried out of 54 countries that had introduced a Development Assistance Framework during the biennium 2014-2015 showed that 20 countries (37 per cent) had incorporated work on non-communicable diseases into their Development Assistance Framework. Those 20 countries, along with 15 countries identified in 2014, provide a new baseline to measure future progress; a target of 42 countries has been identified for 31 December 2017. To support countries, the UNDP and WHO guidance note on the integration of non-communicable diseases into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework has been disseminated in English, French and Spanish.

*Framework for country action across sectors to improve health and health equity*

66. The Task Force is developing a set of sectoral policy briefs to strengthen the responses of non-health sectors (for example, education, trade, finance, planning and development) in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. The briefs will present evidence, state the rationale for engagement (and ownership) of non-health sectors and contain priority actions for different sectors in responding to non-communicable diseases and their risk factors. They will make the case for responding to non-communicable diseases as a development challenge, not simply a health issue, and highlight linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals.

*Contribution to the work of the WHO global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases*

67. Members of the Task Force participated in the WHO global coordination mechanism dialogue on how to strengthen international cooperation on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases within the framework of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.[9] Members have also contributed to the work of the working groups, on how to realize Governments' commitments to engage with the private sector for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and on how to realize Governments' commitments to provide financing for work on non-communicable diseases.

*Non-communicable diseases and the law*

68. The International Development Law Organization, UNDP and WHO hosted a workshop for organizations of the United Nations system and civil society on law and non-communicable diseases (New York, February 2016). It was agreed that the Task Force would explore how to meet the rapidly increasing requests from Member States for organizations of the United Nations system to provide technical assistance in the area of non-communicable diseases and law and that consideration be given to a community of practice on law and non-communicable diseases to be established under the WHO global coordination mechanism.

*Non-communicable diseases and emergencies*

69. WHO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have led the development and publication of a report that provides an overview of the impact of emergencies on people living with non-communicable diseases and describes the minimum standards and priority actions to be adopted in relation to the treatment of non-communicable diseases in emergencies.

*Ninth Global Conference on Health Promotion, with the theme "Health promotion in sustainable development"*

70. The Task Force is providing support in the preparations for the Conference, to be held in Shanghai, China, from 21 to 24 November 2016.

[9] See http://www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/dialogues/dialogue-international-partnership/en/.

# IV. Conclusions

71. The year 2015 marked a historic crossroads at which global leaders decided to include non-communicable diseases in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new agenda recognizes non-communicable diseases as a major challenge for sustainable development and includes a global target to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one third by 2030. These decisions came at a critical moment in the history of the non-communicable diseases epidemic and the response thereto. To reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and to leave no one behind in the response will profoundly affect the entire lifespan of millions of people around the world for generations to come. The post-2030 world will be very different from the one we know today, and it is one that we can create.

72. The decision made by global leaders in 2015 to include non-communicable diseases in the Sustainable Development Goals derives from their decision in 2011 to acknowledge that non-communicable diseases constitute one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century. During the first high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, in 2011, global leaders also agreed on a road map of national commitments to reduce premature mortality from major non-communicable diseases. The road map was based on the vision rooted in the global strategy for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2000. The WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases 2013-2020 and regional action plans provide guidance to Governments and international partners on how to implement the commitments included in the road map.

73. The WHO non-communicable diseases progress monitor 2015 demonstrated that if the current unprecedented level of strengthening national responses to non-communicable diseases is maintained only, progress will not be sufficient to fulfil the promise made by Governments in 2014 to implement the four time-bound commitments by the end of 2016, despite some dramatic achievements.

74. In May 2016, the secretariat of WHO will report to the sixty-ninth World Health Assembly that the probability of dying between the ages of 30 and 70 from one of the major non-communicable diseases, the current prevalence of tobacco use among persons 18 years of age and older, the prevalence of raised blood pressure among persons 18 years of age and older and alcohol consumption per capita have started to decline since 2011. Similarly, the number of countries that have operational non-communicable diseases units within their ministries of health has started to increase. Such progress has inspired the members of the Task Force to assert that the global target to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one third by 2030 can be attained.

75. The lack of access to technical expertise is the most substantial barrier to scaling up responses to non-communicable diseases. International development cooperation must underwrite the need to explore new catalytic approaches to global cooperation for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. If the right decisions and the right investments are made now in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be focused on the unfinished agenda of implementing the four time-bound commitments for non-communicable diseases by

2016, target 3.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one third by 2030, will be firmly on track. The Task Force has a limited window of opportunity, measured as being 24 months or less, in which to scale up before 2018. The Task Force's vantage point is clear and ambitions are high owing to the foundation built in recent years. Action now will bring savings in the future.

76. Target 3.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, to strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which highlights that tobacco taxes can provide an important revenue stream for the achievement of the Goals, are important milestones that will help to facilitate further implementation of the Framework Convention in the coming years. Stronger coordination of work among members of the Task Force in this area will help to improve the achievement of the target.

77. Engagement with the tobacco industry is contrary to the United Nations system's objectives, fundamental principles and values. The United Nations system, including the intergovernmental agencies that are observers of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention and members of the Inter-Agency Task Force, must work as one, ensuring a consistent and effective separation between its activities and those of the tobacco industry to preserve its integrity and reputation and promote development.

## V. Recommendations

78. **The Economic and Social Council is invited:**

(a) **To take note of the present report;**

(b) **To request the Secretary-General to report to it in 2017 and 2018 on progress made in implementing Council resolution 2013/12, in preparation for a comprehensive review in 2018 by the General Assembly of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;**

(c) **To call upon the members of the Task Force to continue to work together to provide support to Member States in implementing the commitments included in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the 2014 outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, taking into account the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases 2013-2020, including to accelerate the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and to help parties to the Framework Convention to also become parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, in order to facilitate the entry into force of the Protocol as soon as possible;**

(d) **To call upon the members of the Task Force to leverage the mandate of the WHO global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases to enhance the coordination of activities, multi-stakeholder engagement and action across sectors in order to contribute to the implementation of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and**

**control of non-communicable diseases 2013-2020 and to attain the new targets of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to non-communicable diseases;**

**(e) To call upon the members of the Task Force to provide support to Governments to reflect the new targets of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to non-communicable diseases included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in national development plans and policies, including target 3.4, to reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by 2030, and target 3.a, to strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate;**

**(f) To call upon the members of the Task Force to support Governments in accelerating progress in achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to non-communicable diseases in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;**

**(g) To call upon the members of the Task Force to make available their policy expertise on non-communicable diseases to Governments at all stages of implementation;**

**(h) To call upon the members of the Task Force to create smoke-free campuses and to further develop and adopt their own model policies on preventing tobacco industry interference.**

# Annex

## Updated matrix of planned work for the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases for the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control[a]

| *Article/issue* | *Agency* | *Planned work for 2016 and 2017* |
|---|---|---|
| Article 4.2 (d) (Tobacco and gender) | Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>UN-Women<br>UNDP<br>WHO | Develop technical tool to address tobacco control and gender |
| Article 5 (General obligations) | Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>UNDP<br>WHO | Secretariat of the Framework Convention to undertake needs assessment missions in 8-10 countries and UNDP and WHO to join the missions |
| | | Secretariat of the Framework Convention to organize regional and subregional workshops together with WHO regional offices, with the participation of relevant United Nations organizations |
| | UNDP<br>Secretariat of the Framework Convention | Develop and publish guidance on national multisectoral coordination mechanisms for implementation of the Framework Convention |
| | | Provide technical support to enable the Framework Convention to be integrated into national development strategies, including national health plans and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks |
| | | Develop action points for United Nations country teams to support implementation of the Framework Convention |
| | Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>All members of the Task Force<br>WHO | Review policies and practices among organizations of the United Nations system on interaction with and potential interference from the tobacco industry |
| | | Adopt and implement a common model policy |
| | | Conduct mapping exercise on non-State actors and potential tobacco industry interference |

[a] This matrix is an update to the matrix in the annex to document E/2013/61. A full workplan for the Task Force is available from http://www.who.int/ncds/un-task-force/en/.

| *Article/issue* | *Agency* | *Planned work for 2016 and 2017* |
|---|---|---|
| Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco) | World Bank | Provide technical support in implementing article 6 and its guidelines |
| | Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>WHO | Finalize tools to cost the implementation of the Framework Convention and to assess the economic impact of tobacco use |
| | International Monetary Fund | Engage with countries' ministries of finance and regional economic groups (West African Economic and Monetary Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and African Tax Administration Forum) to improve and increase taxes on tobacco products |
| Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke) | WHO<br>Secretariat of the Framework Convention | Support countries in developing comprehensive national smoke-free legislation and enforcing smoke-free policies |
| | | Work with subnational authorities for smoke-free communities and cities as a means to bring about national smoke-free legislation |
| | | Encourage smoke-free Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020 and other large events |
| | | Work with countries to have smoke-free movies |
| | WHO<br>UNICEF<br>UNFPA | Implement WHO recommendations for the prevention and management of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure in pregnancy in three countries/cities |
| | Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>All relevant members of the Task Force | Work towards smoke-free premises and campuses of organizations of the United Nations system |
| Articles 9 and 10 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco products and tobacco product disclosures) | Secretariat of the Framework Convention | Organize the tenth meeting of the working group on articles 9 and 10 |
| | WHO | Provide assistance to parties upon request |
| | | Coordinate work and meetings of the WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network (TobLabNet), the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg) and the global tobacco regulators' forum |

| *Article/issue* | *Agency* | *Planned work for 2016 and 2017* |
|---|---|---|
| Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products) | UNCTAD | Support parties with advice in areas of intellectual property and investment agreements |
| | WHO<br>Secretariat of the Framework Convention | Promote implementation of plain packaging and large graphic health warnings through global and regional workshops and events, publications and South-South and triangular projects |
| | | Create copyright-free collection of graphic health warnings and pictures for use by parties |
| Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness) | Secretariat of the Framework Convention | Conduct global annual World No Tobacco Day campaigns |
| | WHO | Facilitate and support training opportunities, including study tours, on different provisions of the Framework Convention |
| | WHO | Strengthen countries' efforts to increase awareness on the dangers of tobacco through mobile health technology and social media |
| Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products) | Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>WHO | Promote the entry into force of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products |
| | World Customs Organization | Organize regional and subregional workshops and training activities |
| | World Bank | |
| Articles 17 and 18 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities) | FAO | Update the FAO 2003 global study "Projections of tobacco production, consumption and trade to the year 2010" |
| | Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>WHO | Facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation |
| | ILO | Secretariat of the Framework Convention to develop guidance for parties on how to address the health impact of tobacco farming |
| | UNCTAD | |
| | UNDP | Disseminate the joint WHO-UNCTAD report on tobacco, agriculture and trade |
| | | Conduct studies on tobacco agro-economics in Bangladesh, India and Indonesia |
| Article 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information) | WHO | Monitor tobacco epidemic and the implementation of best-buy/good-buy policies globally to reduce tobacco use; the WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2017, will focus on monitoring |

| *Article/issue* | *Agency* | *Planned work for 2016 and 2017* |
|---|---|---|
| Article 22: international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation | Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>UNDP<br>All members of the Task Force | Prepare a series of fact sheets, one for each organization of the United Nations system, that describe their ongoing and potential collaboration with the secretariat of the Framework Convention for supporting the implementation of the Framework Convention<br>Conduct a second South-South and triangular cooperation meeting and implement identified pilot projects |
| Development | UNDP<br>Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>WHO | Initiate a tobacco and sustainable development challenge study<br>Implement an advocacy plan to prioritize the Framework Convention and tobacco taxation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals |
| Trade (and investment) | UNCTAD<br>Secretariat of the Framework Convention<br>WHO | Disseminate papers on international investment agreements and tobacco control policies<br>Support parties in litigation cases<br>Standardize capacity-building training packages (including training of trainers) on trade and tobacco |

United Nations E/2016/54

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 March 2016

Original: English

**2016 session**
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 18 (d)
**Economic and environmental questions: human settlements**

# Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/34. It describes the activities undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in cooperation with other entities and organizations of the United Nations system in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The report concludes with four recommendations, calling upon Member States to: (a) adapt the City Prosperity Initiative as a national monitoring framework for Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of other Goals relevant to cities and human settlements, as well as of the New Urban Agenda; (b) promote the role of local and other subnational governments in sustainable development at the local level, as reflected in paragraph 34 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and in the implementation and monitoring of Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda; (c) provide support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; and (d) consider, in formulating and implementing their urban climate change strategies, using the "Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning", launched during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/34.

2. During the reporting period, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued its cooperation with United Nations system organizations and agencies. Among the key mechanisms for cooperation were the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (including the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group), the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. UN-Habitat continued to provide technical inputs to reports of the Secretary-General and other relevant system-wide documents, including those on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

3. Outside the United Nations system, UN-Habitat continued to strengthen its relations with Habitat Agenda partners, including local governments, civil society groups, private sector organizations, professional bodies and research and training institutions.

# II. Activities at the global level

4. Activities at the global level in which UN-Habitat worked with numerous United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, Governments and a wide range of partners included preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), preparation of a paper for the High-level Committee on Programmes on urbanization and sustainable development, the World Urban Campaign, the *World Cities Report 2016*,[1] consultations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and implementation of the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

## A. Preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/216, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held its second session from 14 to 16 April 2015 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. A number of system organizations participated in the session.

6. The United Nations task team on Habitat III, consisting of 25 United Nations agencies and programmes, met in January 2015 to prepare inputs for the preparatory

[1] The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is streamlining its global reports, therefore it is merging its two flagship reports, *State of the World Cities Report* and *Global Report on Human Settlements*, into one flagship report, *World Cities Report* (see A/68/6 (Sect.15), annex III).

process for Habitat III, in the form of a series of issue papers on 22 main topics expected to be covered by the New Urban Agenda that will emerge from Habitat III. The issue papers were translated into the official languages of the United Nations and published on the website for the Conference, inviting participating States and stakeholders to submit written comments, which are also published on the website, so as to ensure full transparency (see www.habitat3.org).

7. The Habitat III policy units, each composed of up to 20 experts, bringing together individual experts from a variety of fields, including academia, government, civil society and other regional and international bodies, submitted policy paper frameworks for Habitat III on 29 February 2016. The policy paper frameworks present policy recommendations that may contribute to the work to be undertaken by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee in preparing the draft outcome document of the Conference.

8. A number of official regional and thematic high-level meetings involving a wide range of participants were held to debate priorities for the New Urban Agenda and policy recommendations. The final declarations from regional and thematic meetings will be considered as official inputs to the Conference process by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee. The regional meetings for Habitat III for Asia-Pacific and Africa were held in Jakarta, in October 2015 and in Abuja, in February 2016, with the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Thematic meetings were held in Tel Aviv, Israel, in September 2015, Montreal, Canada, in October 2015, Cuenca, Ecuador, in November 2015, Abu Dhabi, in January 2016, Mexico City, in March 2016, and in Barcelona, Spain and Pretoria, in April 2016.

9. Member States continued submitting their national reports for Habitat III, as well as engaging stakeholders at the national level in organizing national urban forums and/or national urban campaigns. Regional reports for the Conference are in the final stages of preparation and are being coordinated by the regional commissions and UN-Habitat regional offices.

10. The General Assembly of Partners for Habitat III was established during the second session of the Preparatory Committee, held in Nairobi in April 2015, as a special initiative of the World Urban Campaign, with the aim of supporting and improving stakeholders' engagement in and contributions to the preparatory process for Habitat III and the Conference itself.

11. As part of the efforts to improve the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, at all stages of the preparatory process and at Habitat III itself, preparations were initiated towards the organization of the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities, immediately prior to the convening of Habitat III, in October 2016.

12. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/210, approved the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference and the arrangements for the accreditation and participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and in Habitat III, as set out in annexes I and II to that resolution, and also decided that a process of open-ended informal consultative meetings should be held for five days in April 2016, in order to provide an opportunity for feedback on the conclusions of the policy units and the thematic and regional meetings.

13. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee was also invited by the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/210, to convene further informal intergovernmental negotiations in New York, for three days in May 2016, three days in June 2016 and three days in July 2016. Representatives of local authorities' associations and representatives of major groups and other stakeholders were invited to two-day informal hearings, to be held in May 2016 and June 2016, respectively, to exchange views with countries on the zero draft of the outcome document of Habitat III.

## B. High-Level Committee on Programmes working group on a new United Nations urban agenda

14. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to chair the High-level Committee on Programmes working group on a new United Nations urban agenda, which was established in early July 2014. The working group consists of 24 core United Nations system organizations.

15. The working group prepared a draft paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a New Urban Agenda". The main objectives of the paper were (a) to develop a coherent United Nations system input to the preparatory process for Habitat III, in particular towards the outcome document of the Conference, the New Urban Agenda; (b) to ensure policy coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the cities and human settlements dimension of the 2030 Agenda and of the outcome of Habitat III; and (c) to provide a framework for the United Nations system organizations to showcase their work on urban issues.

16. The paper addresses the challenges facing today's urbanization patterns and the opportunities that urbanization offers for sustainable development. The paper also proposes an issue-based multi-stakeholder partnership on the New Urban Agenda, to be established within the framework of the World Urban Campaign that is currently managed by UN-Habitat.

17. The working group also prepared a draft joint statement of the Chief Executives Board on urbanization and sustainable development, based on the above-mentioned paper, to be delivered at the Conference.

18. Both the draft paper and the draft joint statement were approved by the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-first session, held in Geneva on 8 and 9 March 2016, and were to be considered by the Chief Executives Board at its first regular session of 2016, to be held in April 2016 in Vienna.

## C. World Urban Campaign

19. The World Urban Campaign has grown considerably in terms of visibility and membership, currently with 136 partners and members, which is instrumental in promoting urbanization issues and solutions through multiple networks and constituencies. Partners and members in the Campaign include representatives of local and subnational authorities, research institutions and academia, civil society organizations, grass-roots organizations, women's groups, parliamentarians, children and youth, business and industries, professionals and trade unions.

20. In April 2015, the World Urban Campaign launched a General Assembly of Partners, conceived as a deliberative platform for non-governmental partners for Habitat III, in order to prepare "The City We Need 2.0", a consensus document consisting of principles, drivers of changes and solutions for developing cities that are inclusive and equitable, ecological and resilient, economically vibrant, safe and healthy, as well as cities planned for everyone, and with an identity that respect their culture and history.

21. During the reporting period, the World Urban Campaign organized a set of 20 urban thinkers campuses, engaging about 1,200 organizations and 4,000 participants from 70 countries on the key themes addressed in "The City We Need", namely, urban resilience, smart planning, public space, urban slums and housing, the right to the city, urban prosperity and employment, urban services, safety and health, justice, megacities, small and medium-sized cities, and the role of children, youth and women. The recommendations made by participants in those campuses contributed to "The City We Need 2.0", which was adopted in March 2016 and is to be shared before Habitat III, through various channels.

## D. World Cities Report 2016

22. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat collaborated with the International City Leaders Foundation and three regional development banks in the preparation of the *World Cities Report 2016*. The objective of the first edition of the *World Cities Report* is to take stock of urban developments over the past two decades, with a view to contributing to the formulation of a new urban agenda for the twenty-first century. The report will also serve as a major background document for Habitat III.

23. Recognizing the significance of that global effort, the International City Leaders Foundation, in partnership with UN-Habitat, held an expert group meeting in New York from 30 June to 2 July 2015, to advise UN-Habitat on the substantive content and organization of the report. The meeting was attended by distinguished international experts and members of the Advisory Board for the report.

24. On 31 July 2015 the Inter-American Development Bank hosted a one-day workshop with staff from UN-Habitat and the Asian Development Bank to discuss the first draft of the report and to provide a more interactive dialogue on the report and its regional illustrations.

25. In an effort to strengthen the regional content and relevance of the *World Cities Report 2016*, UN-Habitat initiated collaboration with three regional development banks early in the drafting process. The African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank participated in a series of dialogues with UN-Habitat on the narrative and content of the report.

## E. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

26. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to participate actively in the processes relating to the post-2015 development agenda (now the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

27. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Sustainable Development Goals, was adopted by Member States at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, on 25 September 2015 (General Assembly resolution 70/1). It includes a goal on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11), with 10 targets that address both the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and new issues for the twenty-first century, indicating that well-planned and managed urbanization is now recognized as an important tool for sustainable development.

28. Since the creation by the Statistical Commission of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, UN-Habitat has been supporting and assisting national statistical offices, particularly at its meetings held in New York in June 2015 and in Bangkok in October 2015. UN-Habitat has also been coordinating the inputs of other system entities on the review and refinement of the indicators under discussion for Goal 11 and leading the compilation of metadata for the same. A majority of the indicators tabled for Goal 11 were recommended in the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1, annex IV).

29. UN-Habitat co-organized the consultation on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments. In addition, UN-Habitat is in the process of preparing a toolkit for the local implementation of the Goals, in cooperation with UNDP and the Global Task Force.

30. Finally, UN-Habitat continued to work with local and regional government networks, urban service providers, academic institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to ensure that the partnerships that advocated for Goal 11 will continue to work together on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## F. International Aid Transparency Initiative

31. In 2012, UN-Habitat became the third United Nations system entity to publish transparency data conforming to the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative, committing itself to publish financial and substantive information about its project portfolio on the Initiative's Registry and on a dedicated transparency website, http://open.unhabitat.org.

32. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to make progress in this area, publishing information on all ongoing projects on a quarterly basis. UN-Habitat also began publishing information on all donors and financing, including developing a methodology enabling donors to trace aid to multilateral organizations using the International Aid Transparency Initiative standard.

33. As a result of their being among the first system organizations to publish information in this way, UN-Habitat, UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services have, since 2013, organized a series of inter-agency meetings on transparency issues, attended by over 35 system organizations. The meetings resulted in the establishment of a working group on transparency, which has been supporting the work of the United Nations Development Group with regard to transparency issues.

# III. Activities at the regional level

34. At the regional level, UN-Habitat continued to work collaboratively with other United Nations system organizations to assist in the organization of, or contribute to, regional ministerial meetings on housing and urban development. The Programme also worked closely with a number of regional development banks to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In addition, the Programme worked with a number of organizations to prepare the regional State of Cities reports.

## A. Regional ministerial meeting

35. Based on a resolution of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, the Arab Council of Ministers of Housing and Construction, affiliated to the League of Arab States, agreed, at its twenty-ninth meeting, on the establishment of the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development to discuss housing and sustainable development challenges in the Arab region and introduce new ways of addressing them.

36. The first session of the Arab Ministerial Forum, on the theme "Arab Urbanization — Present Challenges and Future Prospects", was hosted by Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, from 20 to 22 December 2015. The meeting was organized in cooperation with the League of Arab States, represented by the Arab Council of Ministers of Housing and Construction, with the technical support of UN-Habitat, and in coordination with the Arab Towns Organization and the Arab Urban Development Institute. With the participation of 19 Arab countries, discussions during the forum covered six thematic areas, namely, social justice, planning and sustainable development, risk management, infrastructure and basic services, climate change and environmental sustainability, legislation and urban economy, and proposed a number of recommendations to address the urban challenges facing the region.

37. The forum culminated in the adoption by the Arab countries of the Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which reiterated their commitment towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirmed their willingness to contribute and implement the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document expected from Habitat III.

38. In parallel, the Technical Secretariat of the League of Arab States, supported by UN-Habitat, drafted the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which was endorsed during the thirty-second meeting of the Arab Council of Ministers of Housing and Construction, held on 20 December 2015 in Cairo.

## B. Regional development banks

39. In order to promote coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and strengthen the impact of its activities at the field level, UN-Habitat engaged with a number of international financial institutions during the reporting period.

40. UN-Habitat and the African Development Bank collaborated towards improving the implementation of the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development programme and other integrated projects with national authorities. Further, UN-Habitat entered into a partnership agreement with the African Development Bank for the preparation of the *State of African Cities 2017*, with the Bank providing financial support for the research costs for the fourth report in the series. The report will focus on the analysis of current foreign direct investment (FDI) flows into Africa and how those financial flows can be increased and redirected towards city development.

41. In collaboration with the African Development Bank, the International Finance Corporation and Shelter Afrique, UN-Habitat actively participated in the Donors Working Group on Housing Finance at the Making Finance Work for Africa initiative and in improving knowledge on alternative finance mechanisms and housing market challenges to reaching the most vulnerable populations. In particular, UN-Habitat is producing a joint regional study with the Bank on housing market dynamics in Africa and conducted joint national assessments throughout the continent, including joint missions to Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Kenya.

42. A conference organized by the Inter-American Development Bank and UN-Habitat was held in Bogota to explore ways of supporting municipal development corporations and private investors in local infrastructure development. Its main objective was to design an investment vehicle for local governments to fund feasibility studies and small infrastructure projects.

43. UN-Habitat cooperated with the Islamic Development Bank in organizing training workshops on municipal finance and public-private investment programmes. The workshops were held in Madrid and Riyadh.

44. UN-Habitat and the Asian Development Bank are jointly preparing a major paper on sustainable municipal finance, to be published during the second quarter of 2016.

## C. Regional State of Cities reports

45. During the period from May 2015 to January 2016, UN-Habitat finalized, in close cooperation with ESCAP, the English language version of the *State of Asian and Pacific Cities 2015*, entitled "Urban transformations: Shifting from quantity to quality", which was launched at the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, held in Jakarta, in September 2015. The report is currently being translated into Chinese for possible launch at the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, to be held in Surabaya, Indonesia, in July 2016.

46. In close cooperation with the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission, UN-Habitat started drafting the English language version of the *State of European Union Cities 2016*, to be published in June 2016. The European member States view the publication as the consolidated submission of the European Union to Habitat III.

47. As noted in paragraph 40, UN-Habitat completed the preparation of phase 1 of the research for the *State of African Cities 2017*, analysing financial flows for urban development, in close cooperation with the African Development Bank, the

Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Oxford Economics and the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The research findings of phase 1 will be an integral part of the forthcoming report, "Africa Economic Outlook 2016", to be issued by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

# IV. Thematic activities at the national and subnational levels

48. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat cooperated with United Nations system organizations and other partners in implementing activities, including operational projects, at the national and subnational levels in the following thematic areas: urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy and municipal finance; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; research and capacity development; and gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women.

## A. Urban legislation, land and governance

49. With the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and on behalf of the United Nations task team supporting preparations for Habitat III, UN-Habitat produced the issue paper on rules and legislation, as part of an overall process towards Habitat III that includes the preparation of 22 issue papers. The document highlights the main concepts and key facts on the state of urban law since Habitat II and identifies key drivers for action for the New Urban Agenda.

50. UN-Habitat supported capacity development in 12 counties through the Kenya Municipal Programme, with support from the World Bank. The Programme aims at strengthening local governance and improving service delivery in selected municipalities in Kenya. UN-Habitat conducted training for both Members of County Assemblies and technical staff based on its integrated rapid planning studio methodology, which integrates legislation, finance and economy, and urban planning and design.

51. UN-Habitat continued to participate as a member of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, partnering with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and 20 other United Nations offices and entities to advance work relating to the rule of law across the United Nations system. This included initiating a review of system engagement with regard to land and conflict.

52. UN-Habitat led the Global Land Indicators Initiative, comprising 45 international partners, including system entities (e.g., the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ECA) and the World Bank, towards the promotion of issues concerning land within the Sustainable Development Goals.

53. UN-Habitat continued to support the implementation of the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa, as endorsed by the African Union in 2009, in collaboration with ECA, particularly as regards implementing joint capacity development initiatives on land governance.

54. In collaboration with FAO, UN-Habitat developed a situational analysis and scoping report on the applications of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security in urban and peri-urban areas. In December 2015, UN-Habitat concluded an agreement of cooperation with the office of FAO in Kenya to implement a project on land use planning in urban and peri-urban contexts in the Turkana district.

55. UN-Habitat has given priority to partnering with local governments and their associations, with the aim of enhancing their capacities to offer technical support to public administrations of all sizes. Strong alliances were promoted and joint workplans implemented with local government associations and city networks such as United Cities and Local Governments, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Metropolis, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Forum for Cities in Transition and the Global fund for cities development, among others.

56. UN-Habitat supported the delegation of mayors and local and regional governments to the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, in collaboration with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, Global fund for cities development, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the African Union.

57. Adding to this effort, it supported the organization of 5 high-level side events during the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and one full day technical event on the theme of local financing for development and innovation in municipal finance for inclusive growth, gathering 90 representatives from local and central governments, financial institutions, foundations and United Nations system entities to exchange experiences and to identify new trends in municipal finance.

58. The presence of mayors and local government representatives during the third International Conference on Financing for Development contributed to the visibility of issues relating to sustainable urban development and local financing, as reflected in paragraph 34 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## B. Urban planning and design

59. As a contribution to Habitat III, UN-Habitat co-led policy unit 3, on national urban policies, along with OECD. Two expert group meetings were held, in Paris and Incheon, Republic of Korea, to develop a policy paper framework on national urban policy. UN-Habitat also coordinated the contribution of the United Nations task team on Habitat III in the preparation of issue paper 10, on urban-rural linkages. The task team included FAO, IFAD, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Issue paper 8, on urban and spatial planning and design, and issue paper 11, on public space, served as the basis for an online discussion on spatial development hosted on the website for Habitat III.

60. UN-Habitat organized a panel on public spaces as a key to urban regeneration, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), at the International Conference on Culture for Sustainable Cities, held in Hangzhou, China, from 10 to 12 December 2015.

61. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) partnered on organizing World Habitat Day, on 5 October 2015, around the theme of "Public spaces for all", as well as global activities for Urban October, which took place in Kenya, the Philippines, Kenya and the United States of America, among other countries.

62. A global exchange platform on national urban policies, established by UN-Habitat in collaboration with other entities (the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Cities Alliance, the German Society for International Cooperation, ECA, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, OECD and United Cities and Local Governments) has become an important knowledge management platform for peer-to-peer learning on national urban policy development and implementation processes.

63. UN-Habitat, ESCAP, the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements and the Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology launched the first International Conference on National Urban Policy, in Incheon, in December 2015. The conference brought together over 200 national urban policy experts, government officials and international organizations.

64. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development co-organized an expert group meeting on urban-rural linkages, focusing on systems of intermediate cities to strengthen urban-rural linkages towards the New Urban Agenda, which was held on 26 and 27 October 2015 in Monteria, Colombia. The meeting offered an opportunity to discuss preliminary findings and ideas and build consensus with regard to an understanding of urban-rural linkages.

65. Further, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development collaborated on a publication on urban-rural linkages in support of the New Urban Agenda, scheduled for publication as a special issue of the Centre's "Regional Development Dialogue" journal, in 2016. The issue attracted 11 submissions for papers, including from FAO and IFAD.

66. Following the approval for implementation of the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning, by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 25/6, the guidelines are now available in the official languages of the United Nations and in four additional languages (Bahasa, Persian, Portuguese and Vietnamese). A compendium of inspiring practices was published to support the implementation of the guidelines. The guidelines were developed through consultations with national Governments, United Nations system organizations, international associations of local authorities and professional associations, as well as members of the Habitat Professionals Forum.

67. UN-Habitat led the development of a multi-stakeholder climate change knowledge product, which was launched during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the title "Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning". To date, the document has been endorsed by 45 partner organizations, including the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP, the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Cities and Local Governments, Local Governments for Sustainability and the World Resources Institute, as well as seven cities.

68. In 2015, UN-Habitat continued as an active participant in two multilateral climate initiatives that it had helped to launch in 2014, the Compact of Mayors and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. By the end of 2015, more than 420 mayors had announced their intention to comply with the Compact of Mayors, on whose management committee UN-Habitat serves. The Compact of Mayors enjoyed high visibility at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, on whose steering committee UN-Habitat serves, and whose other members include UNEP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, was also visible at the Conference. At the Conference, the Secretary-General launched the Alliance's report, entitled "The State of City Climate Finance".

69. In 2015, UN-Habitat became the twelfth accredited Multilateral Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund, alongside UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Bank and others. This accreditation should pave the way for increased support to cities. Also in 2015, UN-Habitat joined the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants.

70. In the Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP, the Rockefeller Foundation and UN-Habitat co-organized a workshop in Indonesia, where a joint publication was launched, entitled "Quick Guide for Policy Makers: Pro-poor Urban Climate Resilience in Asia and the Pacific".

71. UN-Habitat, UNEP and Tongji University, in collaboration with national professionals and the Government of China, co-organized a workshop on the theme "Planning for Greener Cities and South-South Cooperation in Africa", which approved the implementation of pilot projects on greener city planning. The workshop was attended by 25 mayors, from eight cities in Africa.

72. In Myanmar, a programme of the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, funded by the European Union and implemented by UN-Habitat and UNEP, helped Myanmar develop its intended nationally determined contribution, its official plan for addressing climate change, which was submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

## C. Urban economy and municipal finance

73. UN-Habitat continued to contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge products on inclusive economic growth, with an emphasis on the promotion of local economic development strategies, the creation of jobs and livelihoods, particularly for youth and women, and the promotion of innovative municipal revenue-generating mechanisms.

74. A key outcome was the production of issue papers on municipal finance, local economic development, jobs and livelihoods and the informal economy for Habitat III. The papers were prepared jointly with the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing, an international non-governmental organization.

75. Capacities for developing plans and strategies for supporting local economic development were strengthened through the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development programme, which has been supported financially by the Government

of Spain and implemented in Bogota. The Secretariat for Economic Development and the Chamber of Commerce in Bogota, universities, labour unions, civil society organizations and the Office of the Mayor of Bogota provided institutional guidance and assistance.

76. In the Philippines, local and national counterparts carried out economic assessments based on integrated economic and spatial planning for the cities of Silay and Cagayan de Oro. Partners in the project included the Arcadis consulting company and Ecoplan International.

77. The Urban Youth Fund, the India Youth Fund and the newly established, private sector supported Lotte Youth Fund window are the anchor projects under the youth-led development programme of UN-Habitat. Since its inception, the Youth Fund has supported 277 youth groups in 70 developing countries and 172 cities. The Lotte Youth Fund window is now funding 10 youth-led groups in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2015, the India Youth Fund granted funding to five youth-led groups in the areas of environment, women's rights and entrepreneurship development. Partners for the youth livelihood programme of UN-Habitat include Lotte Incorporated, Samsung C&T Corporation, Ericsson, Mathare Environmental Conservation Youth Group, Strathmore University, Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation, the University of the Fraser Valley (Canada), Canada World Youth and Youth Challenge International.

78. There was a strong focus on youth and post-conflict issues during 2015. By closely working with other system entities, civil society actors and the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, UN-Habitat contributed to the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth and peacebuilding. UN-Habitat partnered with many organizations in this work, including the World Bank, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders, the Office of the Envoy on Youth, UNDP, UNFPA, Search for Common Ground, the Norwegian Children and Youth Council, National Youth Secretariat of Brazil, the major group for children and youth, World Vision and the University of Victoria (Canada), among others.

79. In Somalia, UN-Habitat, with support from UNDP, contributed to improving the capacity of local authorities to identify ways through which they could generate additional municipal revenue, particularly from local sources. Financial management systems were established in 15 districts under the joint programme on local governance and decentralized service delivery for Somalia. Since its introduction, an automated municipal finance system has considerably improved revenue collection, transparency, accountability and the financial procedures of local governments. Financial support for the project was provided by the following organizations: the Department for International Development (United Kingdom); the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; the Danish International Development Agency; the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; the Government of Norway; and the European Commission.

## D. Housing and slum upgrading

80. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to implement the participatory slum upgrading programme in 35 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. UN-Habitat is aiming at mainstreaming programme principles and

priorities in the work of the United Nations country teams. The programme is financed by the European Commission. Of the 35 countries, 25 already reflect the programme in their United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

81. In Papua New Guinea, UN-Habitat implemented the action planning phase of the participatory slum upgrading programme during 2015. This was jointly undertaken with the Office of Urbanization and the Cities Alliance. UN-Habitat is providing technical support to the elaboration of a citywide slum upgrading strategy for Port Moresby. In Greater Accra, UN-Habitat cooperated with the World Bank, through its urban programmatic technical assistance on finance and metropolitan planning and enhancing urban resilience, to undertake the diagnostic study of the city resilience of Accra.

82. The office of the Resident Coordinator in Windhoek provided support to the newly-formed Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare in developing a strategy to address poverty in the country. UN-Habitat provided advisory services pertaining to the urban context of that effort in December 2015.

83. UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and ECE collaborated in the roll-out of the Global Housing Strategy. UN-Habitat and ECE further collaborated on the Geneva United Nations Charter on Sustainable Housing, and ECE participated in the expert consultation on homelessness, which was organized under the auspices of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, in Geneva in November 2015.

84. UNDP and UN-Habitat collaborated in the formulation of a national housing strategy in Guyana. A contribution agreement was signed and UNDP provided financial support to UN-Habitat for technical activities in the field of housing in Guyana. UNDP also contributed to the formulation of a national housing strategy in Lesotho, led by UN-Habitat.

85. UN-Habitat and UNEP contributed and continue to contribute to the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and the Global Housing Strategy. In June 2015, UN-Habitat and the Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative of UNEP launched their joint publication, entitled "Green Building Interventions for Social Housing" at the annual symposium of the Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative, which was held in Nice, France.

86. The Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living collaborated with UN-Habitat on raising awareness regarding the responsibilities of Governments with respect to the right to adequate housing.

87. UN-Habitat strengthened its collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The two entities continued joint work under the auspices of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme. Two new streams of work under the Programme were opened in 2015, in preparation for Habitat III, namely, on persons with disabilities and on homelessness.

88. On the occasion of World Cities Day 2015, the theme of which was "Designed to live together", UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, organized a 3-day forum on disability, inclusion and accessible

urban development, in Nairobi. The event attracted 58 global experts. During the forum, UN-Habitat and OHCHR launched a study by the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, entitled "The Right to Adequate Housing for Persons with Disabilities Living in Cities — Towards Inclusive Cities". In addition, a peer-review meeting was held in Geneva, in November 2015, with the purpose of convening key stakeholders to strategically place the issue of homelessness within the purview of the New Urban Agenda.

89. UN-Habitat commenced active engagement in the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including through participation in the annual meeting, held in Beirut in May 2015.

90. OHCHR conducted a substantive review of the "Programmatic Guidance Note for UN-Habitat Staff on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights", prior to its release in 2015. OHCHR also supported UN-Habitat capacity-building initiatives for staff on the human rights-based approach to development. Finally, UN-Habitat actively participated in the Human Rights Working Group of the United Nations Development Group. Under the auspices of the Working Group, UN-Habitat co-led the drafting of an assessment report on national tracking systems for the follow-up on human rights recommendations.

## E. Urban basic services

91. As a member of the technical working group formed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to support the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport, UN-Habitat coordinated the preparation of issue papers on urbanization, management and operation, as well as on inter-city and intra-city multi-modal interfacing, with inputs from other members of the working group, including multilateral development banks, regional commissions, UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and non-governmental organizations. In a similar role, UN-Habitat, together with UNEP, also coordinated an analysis of the transport-related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals.

92. At the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in December 2015, together with the International Zero Emission Vehicle Alliance, UNEP, the Government of the Netherlands and other partners, UN-Habitat organized a high-level event on the International Zero Emission Vehicle Alliance. Building on the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative launched at the Climate Summit, held on 23 September 2014, the event demonstrated the commitment of governments and the private sector to accelerate the adoption of zero emission vehicles.

93. UN-Habitat also participated in the Transport Forum of the African Development Bank, held in November 2015, during which UN-Habitat and UNEP made presentations on the theme of "Transport for green and inclusive growth".

94. UN-Habitat played a leading role, together with UNEP and the World Health Organization (WHO), under the umbrella of UN-Water, in developing a Global Expanded Water Monitoring Initiative, which will establish and maintain a global monitoring mechanism for the 2030 Agenda to determine baselines and track progress in the implementation of Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on water and sanitation.

95. UN-Habitat was re-elected as co-chair of the Global Wastewater Initiative. The Initiative is a multi-stakeholder platform comprising United Nations entities, international organizations, Governments, scientists and the private sector. It is a voluntary network of stakeholders aimed at facilitating coordinated action to tackle the wastewater challenge and to promote the wastewater agenda.

96. UN-Habitat and UNIDO organized a session on energy and cities at the Vienna Energy Forum 2015. The Forum provided a high-level platform for policymakers and energy practitioners to engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue on pivotal sustainable energy issues connected to inclusive development, including partnerships, finance, policy, technology, capacity-building and knowledge management.

97. A joint initiative with UNEP during the reporting period resulted in the establishment of a network on district energy and the publication of a report on district energy in cities. UN-Habitat also continued its partnership with UNEP and GEF in the project on promoting energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa. The project has so far trained over 350 architects, engineers and quantity surveyors in the region. UN-Habitat also collaborated with ILO in a project in Kenya on affordable housing, known as "ECO-Manyatta".

98. UN-Habitat collaborated with Sustainable Energy for All in organizing a side event on cities and energy during the 2015 forum on Sustainable Energy for All, held in New York. Sustainable Energy for All is a multi-stakeholder partnership between governments, the private sector and civil society. Launched by the Secretary-General in 2011, it has three interlinked objectives to be achieved by 2030: (a) ensure universal access to modern energy services; (b) double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and (c) double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

99. Finally, with support from GEF, UN-Habitat continued to implement the project on sustainable transport for East African cities. In Nairobi, an operational plan for the first demonstration of a bus rapid transit corridor was presented to the Government and stakeholders in 2015. In Kampala, a mobility map was developed, using an innovative methodology based on the use of smartphones. This will provide a more people-centred basis for public transport planning.

## F. Risk reduction and rehabilitation

100. Building on the City Resilience Profiling Programme, UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with a wide range of partners, including the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. In March 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted by Member States at the conclusion of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (see General Assembly resolution 69/283). In the context of its collaboration with the Inter-Agency Secretariat, UN-Habitat contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework through representation on the Senior Management Group, which supports the High-level Committee on Programmes.

101. UN-Habitat worked with other system entities in revising the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, stressing the need for integrated and cross-sectoral risk management and the importance of cooperation

between national and local levels of government. UN-Habitat also contributed to the ongoing development of indicators for the monitoring and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

102. In mid-2015, UN-Habitat was appointed a liaison agency to Technical Committee 292 of the International Standards Organization, which has a mandate to develop a new portfolio of standards addressing urban resilience. UN-Habitat, together with the Regulatory Cooperation Unit of ECE, co-convenes a working group, and is providing substance and content as well as coordination of the participating national standards organizations.

103. In 2015, UN-Habitat continued its engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, especially by strengthening global knowledge of post-crisis urban recovery. In May 2015, UN-Habitat hosted the meeting of Inter-Agency Standing Committee principals in Nairobi. The principals endorsed the work of the reference group on meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas, which UN-Habitat chairs.

104. UN-Habitat continued to support disaster response efforts led by the United Nations at the country level. Following the earthquake in Nepal, in April 2015, UN-Habitat participated in assessment and response missions, and specifically in drafting urban policy papers to help clarify the urban dimensions of the crisis. Four expert urban specialists were deployed to support the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), developing urban strategic response plans and programmes for upgrading informal settlement in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

105. UN-Habitat, through its City Resilience Profiling Programme and in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments and over 50 other humanitarian organizations, produced an urban strategy for the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey.

106. UN-Habitat forged broad based partnerships with system entities and civil society through the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, an initiative established in close collaboration with the secretariat of the World Humanitarian Summit. The Alliance is a broad issue-based coalition uniting municipal authorities, humanitarian and development actors, urban professionals and the private sector to ensure better preparedness and a more effective response to the growing urban nature of crises.

## G. Research and capacity development

107. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat adapted the City Prosperity Initiative, which is being implemented in more than 300 cities across the world, as a proposed global monitoring framework for the Sustainable Development Goals relating to urban matters and the New Urban Agenda. This will allow national and local governments to better organize monitoring on a single platform, minimizing efforts and avoiding duplication in the reporting process.

108. The City Prosperity Initiative works as a support for multi-scale decision-making that connects the city with the region and the country as a whole. This platform promotes integration of the different Sustainable Development Goals and the anticipated New Urban Agenda indicators to address the environmental, social and economic components of sustainability.

109. In close collaboration with various United Nations entities — UNESCO, WHO, the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UN-Women, UNEP and UNDP — UN-Habitat prepared a global monitoring framework guide for Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals that provides definitions and metadata for all proposed indicators. The guide will assist countries and cities in the setting of national targets, including specific benchmarks and standards, and in their reporting efforts.

110. UN-Habitat advised a number of countries and cities in their efforts to integrate national and local planning processes in response to the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals. It also initiated the preparation of specific tools and guidelines to provide technical advisory services for localizing indicators at the city level.

111. Working with various partners, including universities, research centres and non-governmental organizations, UN-Habitat started refining approaches and techniques for data collection and the compilation and analysis of information for the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant targets. This is particularly important with regard to new indicators that have a spatial component and require spatial analysis. Special attention is being given to the need to disaggregate data and information at the city and sub-city levels, combining modern techniques with non-conventional forms of data collection and reporting that involve local communities. In view of the preparation of global reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat partnered with New York University to prepare a global sample of cities so as to assist countries in preparing similar national samples.

112. Finally, in close collaboration with the regional commissions, particularly ECA, ECLAC and ESCAP, UN-Habitat advanced in the preparation of regional meetings to assess monitoring and reporting needs, including training and capacity development in data collection and monitoring.

## H. Gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women

113. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat promoted gender equality and women's empowerment as essential components of sustainable urban development. In fulfilling its mandate, UN-Habitat strove, together with relevant United Nations system organizations and other partners, to promote the improvement of women's rights, their equal participation in decision-making and services that benefit women and men equally.

114. In September 2015 the gender equality marker for UN-Habitat was rolled out. The process began in January 2015 with desk research and consultation with other United Nations system entities, including UN-Women. The gender equality marker was applied to 209 ongoing projects in June 2015, in order to establish a baseline for the progress of the marker. Its roll-out occurred in conjunction with that of other cross-cutting markers.

115. More recently, from 15 to 22 November 2015, UN-Habitat, jointly with Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, conducted training on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in urban development and results-based

management for UN-Habitat partners, at the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre in Haifa.

116. On 7 and 8 December 2015, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on women in sustainable housing, in Nairobi. The meeting outlined a set of steps required to reach agreed programme goals and to harness indicators. The meeting was attended by representatives of a wide range of organizations, including UNEP, ILO, the African Development Bank, Shelter Afrique, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (Indonesia), the Kenya Investment Authority, Cardiff University (United Kingdom), Dohuk University (Iraq), Kier Construction (United Kingdom), OshDarley Consult, Athi River Mining (Kenya), and Urbanis Africa.

## V. Recommendations

117. In the light of the issues discussed in the present report, Member States are called upon to:

(a) Consider adapting the City Prosperity Initiative, which is currently being implemented in more than 300 cities across the world, as a national monitoring framework for Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of other Goals relevant to cities and human settlements, as well as of the New Urban Agenda expected to be adopted at Habitat III;

(b) Promote the role of local and other subnational governments in sustainable development at the local level, as reflected in paragraph 34 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, including in the implementation and monitoring of Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant targets of other Goals, as well as of the New Urban Agenda;

(c) Support, including financially, UN-Habitat normative and technical cooperation contributions to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, especially in meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas and enhancing the resilience of cities and human settlements; and

(d) Consider, in formulating and implementing their urban climate change strategies, using the "Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning" launched by UN-Habitat during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.